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BRIDE GUIDE





ORDER OF **1** VENDORS

The order in which you hire your vendors is dependent upon what you find the most important to you. Is getting married at the courtyard overlooking the lake your dream? Then start with your venue and find the date that it is available. Have your heart set on a particular photographer saving your precious memories? Pick a date that they are available and find a venue with the same availability. Make a list of importance to you and start from the top so that you can ensure that your favorite vendors are available to help make your day as magical as possible. Popular vendors to top the list are: venue, photographer, planner, baker, florist, and caterer. Other vendors include rental companies, DJs, hair and makeup artists, videographers, officiants, bands, lighting, ad more. Cake shops and florists are more likely to be able to handle multiple weddings per day so their availability is more lenient than other vendors, however they do only accept so many weddings per weekend so don't put off booking for too long!



2 FAVORITE DATE NIGHT DURING THE ENGAGEMENT

Date nights are important not only to keep the spark alive, but to give you a break from all of the planning. The unanimous vote for favorite date nights during engagement involves **dates that do not consist of wedding planning**. Dates that take your mind off of the wedding and back onto having fun with the one you are spending the rest of your life with - bowling, hiking, star gazing, One bride mentioned making watercolor portraits of each other, how fun!

BEST WAY TO DE-STRESS 3

Wouldn't you know, the best way to destress is to go on one of those dates mentioned above. The simple act of taking your mind off of the wedding - of spending quality time with your soon-to-be spouse, your friends, and family. Hot baths and chocolate don't hurt either.

However, some brides admit that accomplishing wedding tasks was the best way to take stress off. Give yourself some breathing room by checking one task at a time off your to-do list.



A registry is the perfect chance to ask for the really fancy things that you really want, but may never buy for yourself. You are starting a new life together so this is a great opportunity to get nice, new things that belong to both of you. Down duvets and covers, new pots and pans, high thread count sheets, and fluffy towels are very popular registry items. One bride noted how a new knife set and glass mixing bowls have made her whole cooking experience much more enjoyable. But maybe you like the bedding you already have and you just bought new pots and pans, so what else can you register for? Think of out of the box items that are very useful but not often thought about, like foldable TV trays. Or ask for items that help you create memories together - new bikes, zoo passes, tickets to a sporting event.

BEST THINGS TO REGISTER FOR

5 THINGS THEY COULDN'T HAVE DONE WITHOUT

The biggest response we got about things our brides couldn't have done without are their new spouses and Jesus. There's no better support system out there. Now, coffee breaks, friends, and Pinterest helped, too. Also importantly, one bride took note that having her wedding planner as well as a hard deadline for having things done helped to keep her sane. Another bride noted how creating packets and timelines helped her to feel organized and productive.

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANYTHING, WOULD YOU?



The most common thing we heard from brides that they would change about their wedding is that they would spend more time doing the things that they wanted to do, rather than what they felt like they needed to do.

They would have spent more time at their reception rather than leaving shortly after cutting the cake. They would have spent less time walking around and talking to everyone and more time dancing with their friends.

They would have picked a venue that didn't have so many rules and regulations about what was allowed and what wasn't. They would have let more people help with day-of details so they could relax and be the bride. They would have stood their ground on the guest list and only invited those people that truly mattered. And the biggest thing of all - many brides agreed that if they were to do it all over again they would elope. They would choose a destination wedding with only the closest of their friends and beautiful scenery.

7 A LITTLE ADVICE

You will get a lot of well-meaning advice from family and friends who want the best for your day, but this advice comes from brides who have recently stood in your shoes. The biggest thing that they want you to know is that this is your day. This isn't about your guests, it isn't about your parents or your family that traveled hundreds of miles to get there, and it's definitely not about what's trendy. It is about you, your spouse, and the blessing that God has bestowed upon you. Plan your wedding around your wants, your desires, your dreams. And then, take a moment to stop and breathe it all in. The day will pass by so quickly, take a minute to enjoy all of your hard work and celebration. Even when things don't go as planned (and understand ahead of time that something will go wrong), know that at the end of the day you will be married and that is all that truly matters.

